

Key Deliverables

As defined by the charge from the Delta Vision Committee, the SCG should develop alternative visions for the Delta addressing the substantive topics identified in the Executive Order. In particular “visions” should address:

- The potential impacts of natural disasters, including floods, earthquakes and global warming on the Delta;
- The current and future impacts of residential, commercial and other development on the Delta;
- The ability of the Delta to continue to exist as a vital environmental resource for California;
- The ability of the Delta to continue to provide a state-wide supply of water, of high quality, for residents, businesses and agriculture.

Recommendations from the SCG on a vision(s) should be delivered to the Blue Ribbon Task Force by August 2007. After the Task Force releases its Final Delta Vision Report, the Stakeholder Coordination Group will develop recommendations for implementing the vision(s) by June 2008.

Introduction (continued)

The Resources Agency has highlighted six major factors that are likely to present real threats. These include:

- Subsidence
- Sea level rise
- Regional climate change
- Seismicity
- Exotic species and ecosystem change
- Population growth and urbanization

Recognizing the potential impacts of these threats, the Governor and legislature have recently adopted several initiatives intended to address the long-term health and stability of the Delta. AB 1200 calls for a risk analysis of threats to the Delta, and strategies for risk reduction. AB 1803 and SB 1574 call for the development of a long-term

vision and strategic plan for the Delta. And through Executive Order S-17-06, the Governor established the Delta Vision Initiative. Recommendations from its Blue Ribbon Task Force, with input from the Stakeholder Coordination Group, are due for a Delta Vision by January 2008 and for an accompanying Strategic Plan by October 2008.

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Additional information on the Delta Vision Initiative can be found at:

<http://www.deltavision.ca.gov>

For follow-up with the Center for Collaborative Policy, contact:

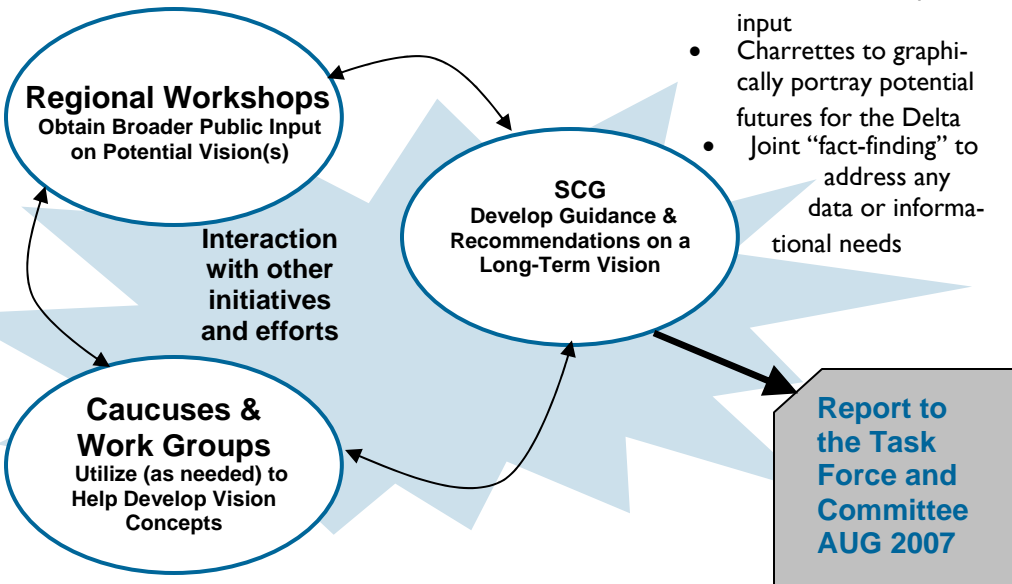
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SCG Process Recommendations

As the centerpiece of Delta Vision stakeholder involvement, the SCG will aim for the highest possible level of agreement and report its recommendations to the Task Force and Committee.

To ensure a productive and efficient stakeholder process that leads to durable, implementable visions for a sustainable Delta – several components of a collaborative process are anticipated:

- Deliberations among SCG members to develop shared meaning of issues and solutions
- Working groups focused on specific elements of a vision for the Delta (as needed)
- Regional workshops to help provide a broader cross-section of public input
- Charrettes to graphically portray potential futures for the Delta
- Joint “fact-finding” to address any data or informational needs



DELTA VISION STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT REPORT SUMMARY

PREPARED FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

PREPARED BY THE CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE POLICY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

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What is the Delta Vision Stakeholder Assessment Report ?

As an early step in the Delta Vision initiative, a Stakeholder Assessment was conducted to explore the political dynamics, values and interests associated with the Delta. The Assessment provides insights into the visions held about the future of the Delta in light of the many demands and expectations placed on the Delta. This Summary provides highlights of the findings and recommendations from the Assessment in support of developing a sustainable, implementable Delta Vision and Strategic Plan.

Introduction

The San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta system, including Suisun Marsh, is the largest estuary on the west coast of North America. It supports many endangered and valued aquatic and terrestrial species. It not only has signifi-

cance as a valuable natural resource, it supports both the Delta region and state-wide economy. The Delta serves as a major conveyance “corridor” for water supply, transportation and energy supplies. As a result it is an area of regional, state

and national importance.

Over the next several decades, however, the Delta will be subject to increased risks that could affect the sustainability of its myriad values and functions.

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Stakeholder and Regional Interests

If there is one thing that leading policy makers and key stakeholders recognize it is that developing a broadly supported vision and strategic plan for the Delta will not be easy. The pressures and demands on the Delta are many:

- For those living in the Delta, a healthy agricultural economy, emergency preparedness and flood control are paramount.
- Those living in the Bay Area look to the Delta for reliable water supply and water quality, and also rely on pipelines, utilities and other infrastructure in the Delta to deliver needed resources.
- Those living in the Central Valley rely on the Delta, and the water it carries from

Northern California, for the water supply that helps fuel significant agricultural production.

- And those living in Southern California depend on the Delta for much of their drinking water supply; the availability and security of that supply are critical to the Southern California economy.

The health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem is an issue of statewide importance, and the Delta provides numerous other benefits (e.g., economic, recreational) to people throughout the state.

The most likely way progress can be made on creating a broadly supported vision and strategic plan for a sustainable Delta is to focus on

meeting the interests of the various stakeholders and regions that rely on Delta resources.

The “interests” which must be addressed by a solution include:

- Environmental
- Agricultural
- Water Purveyor and Consumer
- Recreation
- Business
- Labor
- Infrastructure Owner and Operator
- Environmental Justice
- Local Government
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Tribal



Visions for the Delta

What are the components of a vision for a sustainable and healthy Delta? The primary component identified by stakeholders, closely paralleling the topics identified in the Governor’s Executive Order, include:

Shared Interests:

Although the interests of various groups differ significantly, the assessment found several noteworthy interests that are shared by a large percentage of stakeholders.

These include:

- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Delta ecosystem.
- Maintaining water quality and supply reliability.
- Sustaining the Delta as a vital part of the regional and state economy.
- Preventing and planning for catastrophic failure of the Delta system.
- Improving governance and decision making.
- Ensuring implementation by addressing financing.

- Flood protection and levees
- Water supply/quality/conveyance
- Ecosystem and native species health
- Land use and urban development
- Financing
- Governance and management
- Business, jobs and economic vitality
- Recreation
- Habitat conservation
- Infrastructure and security

While each of these components needs to be addressed through a vision for the Delta, the numerous interests associated with the Delta lead to a wide range

of possible visions and solution. In the same way that most stakeholders shared at least some common interests, most acknowledge that any sustainable vision for the Delta will need to incorporate the following:

- Ways to improve the health of the Delta ecosystem; most believe changes are needed in the way land, water and other Delta-related resources are managed if a healthy ecosystem is to be achieved and maintained.
- Management of water conveyance and exports; whether due to water supply reliability, Delta ecosystem health or other concerns, most believe water conveyance and exports need to be managed differently from the current regime.

- Development pressures and changing land use in the Delta; unless tempered, most believe current trends will certainly change the face of the Delta as well as create additional pressures on the Delta.
- The current levee/island system in the Delta cannot be maintained indefinitely with existing resources; given the increased risks, economic considerations, State financial resources and other uncertainties, most believe change is inevitable.

Views about the Delta Vision Initiative

Most stakeholders expressed some doubt about the potential effectiveness of the Delta Vision initiative. They suggest the following are critical to a successful undertaking:

- Commitment and action by the Governor and State leadership to forge and enact effective solutions to Delta issues.

- Willingness of some stakeholders to move beyond the rigidity of past “positions,” especially those who perceive greater benefit from inaction.

- Ensure that actions from other initiatives, such as regulatory actions associated with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, do not foreclose options developed by Delta Vision.

- Effectively address the general “burnout” and “process fatigue” experienced by those who have been involved with previous Delta processes.

- Overcome perceptions that the results of Delta Vision are predetermined or that groups with greater political clout will dominate.

Context, Conditions and Conversation for Success

Based on the Center’s analysis of the interests, visions, key issues and perspectives expressed during assessment interviews, the following “building blocks” for success have been identified.

1. Creating the Context for Success

- Address Impending Threats Now: the process must build on the predominant view that impending threats to the Delta need to be addressed now; most believe the status quo is not a realistic option.
- Exercise Leadership and Political Will: state leaders ultimately must demonstrate the political will to develop and support lasting solutions that may require trade-offs affecting their constituencies.
- Address the Risk of Irrelevance: the state must address the potential risk of the SCG’s “irrelevance” by confirming its value and ensuring decisions on other Delta-related initiatives do not preempt Delta Vision.
- Appropriate Expectations: it is essential for SCG members to have the appropriate level of expectations about their role as the basis for their commitment to the process.

2. Creating the Conditions for Success

- Participation of Key Stakeholders: the primary interest groups must be involved and represented by respected spokespersons.
- Incentives for Stakeholders to Work Together and Create Agreements: stakeholders must see value in working together and crafting agreements to break political gridlock.
- The Value of Improved Relationships: since most stakeholders will continue to deal with each other over time, finding better ways to resolve issues is mutually beneficial.
- Meaningful Interaction between the Task Force and SCG: both the Task Force and SCG benefit from ongoing interaction during the course of the project.
- Federal Agencies Engaged in New Ways: most agree that federal agencies need to be involved through the creation of effective partnerships.
- Public Understanding of Delta Values and Issues: ultimately, public support for implementation of outcomes will likely be necessary; attention to public education is therefore critical to success.

- Adequate Resources from the Sponsoring Agency(s): sponsoring state agencies are currently providing the personnel and financial resources necessary.

3. Focusing the Conversation for Success

- Establish Priorities: the solutions generated by the process cannot likely “do all things for all people” related to the Delta; priorities will need to be established.
- Address the Tough Issues: most believe that Delta Vision cannot side step the tough issues; if so, it’s value will be limited.
- Create a New Conversation: to make progress, a new conversation which focuses more on interests than positions is needed.
- Use a Systems Approach to Balancing Statewide and Regional Interests: a broader, statewide view of the issues, with a broader array of potential solutions, is needed to create breakthroughs.
- Reframe Issues to Create New Solutions: restating some of the longstanding issues in the Delta may help identify some new approaches and solutions.



“Benign neglect of the Delta is no longer benign”

~CA State Senator

